

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
September 10, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro (8:00 p.m.)

Excused: Paulhus

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2012 meeting as corrected by the Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Saul Nesselroth, Hillyndale Road, spoke in favor of a responsible contracting ordinance. Mr. Nesselroth noted it would provide local skilled workers with jobs, produce products of better quality, more efficiently, and allow union and non-union companies to bid on jobs as long as they meet the standards of the ordinance. Any ordinance should include apprenticeship provisions, prevailing wage standards and local and minority hiring practices.

Robert Korvo, Wallingford, CT, knows of no state or federal laws requiring apprenticeships, but he feels they are important opportunities for workers to learn valuable trades.

Clare King'oo, Lebanon Square, supports the adoption of a responsible contracting ordinance as an opportunity for a positive change in northeast Connecticut and as a help to the local economy.

Scott Opperman, Storrs Road, spoke in support of the ordinance.

Dean Pilati, Willington, CT, representing the New England Regional Council of Carpenters commented on the importance of an apprentice program.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked if the Erhland signs violate the Town's sign ordinance and questioned why the Council was bothering to craft an ordinance since most of the issues are covered by state law. Mr. Hossack requested information on the overruns in the Fire Department budget.

Bart Pasaconis, South Windsor, noted a responsible contracting ordinance gives contractors an opportunity to employ apprentices at a lower rate, thereby saving money while providing training opportunities. He suggested the Council keep it simple.

Jean de Smet, Windham, thanked the Council for considering such an ordinance and spoke to her own experience as an electrician. Ms. de Smet would like to have the protections that other workers enjoy.

Jay Rueckl, South Eagleville Road and a member of the Board of Education, suggested in addition to looking at building the schools sequentially, the Council explore the cost benefits of structuring the debt differently.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, spoke in favor of a responsible contracting ordinance. Mr. Anderson commented such an ordinance would have a positive effect on the economy if

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wage earners are earning an adequate wage. (Submitted materials to be included in the next Council packet)  
Mr. Shapiro joined the meeting.

Peggy Beckett-Rinker, Hillside Circle, stated it makes sense to hire contractors who hire local workers. She is in support of the prevailing wage, nondiscriminatory hiring and an apprenticeship program.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked if Mansfield has a problem that needs this ordinance. Ms. Wassmundt requested speakers, with special affiliation, identify themselves prior to speaking and asked how this will affect Mansfield's freedom. She also asked the Council to closely review the Town/Schools agreement before adoption.

Greg Semenza, Woods Road, expressed his appreciation of the Council's willingness to consider adopting such an ordinance. Mr. Semenza notes several other towns in the state have adopted similar provisions which may serve as models.

Scott Smith, Gurleyville Road, completed a four year apprenticeship program which has served him well.

Greg Zlotnick, Wormwood Hill Road, runs an open shop with 30-hour OSHA certified workers and asked why the Council is trying to increase the bottom line for taxpayers. Mr. Zlotnick asked why some of the speakers are not residents of Mansfield.

Jim Hodrinsky, Warrenville Road, trained workers for many years and commented we have a vocational school system which cannot meet the need to provide quality workers. He asked the Council to explore all available options.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move Item 2, Reapportionment of Regional School District #19, prior to the Town Manager's report.  
The motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager presented his written report.

Ms. Keane noted that a letter was received by Council members which stated EDR recently reported it has leased 236 beds, not 127 apartments.

Mr. Freudmann requested a discussion of taxes realized from the Nathan Hale Hotel and other entities on campus be scheduled. Mr. Hart suggested these issues be discussed under the general heading of the Tech Park, which will be scheduled on a future agenda.

Mr. Ryan asked for an update on the proposal to acquire electrical power from the Kirby Mill. Mr. Hart reported staff is still reviewing the various proposals and will schedule a discussion with the Council once a potential agreement has been identified.

Ms. Moran noted that nowhere in the materials distributed regarding a responsible contracting ordinance is there a discussion requiring mandatory union membership.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson noted the passing of lifetime resident Isabelle Knowlton Atwood. Isabelle was very active in the Town and loved Mansfield. Mansfield has lost a very valued community member.

Mayor Paterson commented on a complimentary article in the Daily Campus regarding the work of Sergeant Cournoyer. The Mayor commended Sgt. Cournoyer, his staff and UConn's staff for their fine work.

Members of the Council are invited to march in the Festival on the Green parade.

Mr. Freudmann spoke to his desire to identify offsets to revenue losses as a result of the recently enacted farm ordinances. After some discussion regarding the role of the Council in this matter, Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Freudmann seconded to add the item to a future agenda. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Moran who voted no.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Storrs Center Update

Town Manager Matt Hart reported the construction is continuing and updated the Council regarding the drainage outfall pipe which is draining into the temporary detention pond near the garage. This pond will be filled in after it serves its purpose. The Town Manager will send an email to determine whether a special meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a number of issues in executive session will work for the majority of Council members.

The Town Manager will check to see when the Store 24 Plaza is scheduled to be demolished. Director of Finance Cherie Trahan explained the three million dollar payment from Leyland for infrastructure work will not happen until the designated projects begin. These items are identified in the developer's agreement and will be provided at the next meeting.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

##### 2. Reapportionment of Regional School District #19

Reapportionment members Bruce Clouette and April Holinko updated the Town Council on the reapportionment process. The Committee has agreed, and the State Board of Education has approved a plan which revises the weight allocated to each member's vote. A referendum question will be placed on the November 6, 2012 ballot.

##### 3. Responsible Contracting Provisions in Municipal Construction Contracts

Council members discussed the perceived benefits and disadvantages of a responsible contracting ordinance.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to form an ad hoc committee to investigate a responsible contracting ordinance.

The ad hoc committee will gather information regarding what other similar sized towns do and whether or not there is evidence a better product is produced as a result of this type of ordinance.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann and Ms. Keane who voted in opposition.

If any Town Council members are interested in serving please contact the Mayor.

##### 4. Agreement between the Town of Mansfield, Mansfield Board of Education and Region 19 Board of Education for Financial Management, Information Technology, Risk Management, and Employee Benefits Services

Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola and Director of Finance Cherie Trahan described the modifications to the agreement. The scope of services has not changed nor has the payment structure, but the services have been more fully defined.

Ms. Trahan will report back to the Council concerning how benefits are shared among the entities sharing the positions.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective September 10, 2012, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Agreement between the Town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Board of Education and the Region 19 Board of Education for Financial

Management, Information Technology, Risk Management and Employee Benefits Services, for a term commencing on July 1, 2012 and expiring on June 30, 2015.  
Motion passed unanimously.

5. Quarterly Financial Reports

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved, effective September 10, 2012, to accept the Financial Statements dated June 30, 2012.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Year End Budget Transfers for FY 2011/12

Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr. Ryan offered the following resolution:

Resolved, effective September 10, 2012, to adopt the Year End Budget Transfers for FY 2011/12, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated September 10, 2012.

Motion passed by all.

7. Capital Improvement Program Closeouts/Adjustments

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee moved, effective September 10, 2012, to approve the adjustments to the Capital Projects fund, as presented to the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated September 10, 2012.

Motion passed by all.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran extended the opportunity for Council members to complete their Town Manager evaluations until tomorrow afternoon.

By consensus the Council agreed to continue the existing policy regarding feral cats.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

8. G. Haddad re: School Building Project

9. D. Hoyle re: Interstate Reliability Project

10.A. Mele re: CL&P's Interstate Reliability Project

11.J. Raynor re: School Building Project

12.A. Smith re: Connecticut Freedom of Information Act

13.M. Hart re: Reappointment to Conservation Commission – Q. Kessel

14.M. Hart re: Reappointment to Conservation Commission – S. Lehman

15.L. Painter re: Conservation and Development Policies: A Plan for Connecticut (DRAFT) – Mr. Hart will ask if there are any significant conflicts with the Town's Plan.

16.Press Release: National Senior Center Month celebration at the Mansfield Senior Center

17.Proclamation in Recognition of September 2012 as Senior Center Month

18.Government Finance Officers Association re: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Cheryl A. Trahan – Mr. Kochenburger thanked Ms. Trahan for the extraordinary service she provides to the Town.

19.Community Connections "United Services announces plans for new Mansfield Center" Summer 2012 227

20.Issues & Trends "Bankruptcy – Don't Panic" August 2012

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

No additional agenda items were requested.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

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Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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